

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Paolo Gaschino et al.
Serial Number: 10/761,950

Attorney Docket: SBC1031US

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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 15, and 16 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 16 can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 3 to 9, and page 5, line 27, to page 6, line 2. The amendments to claim 15 merely clarify this claim. Claims 1 and 3 to 16 are under examination.

The Examiner indicated that claim 12 was rejected, but did not indicate any grounds for the rejection of claim 12. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the status of claim 12. If claim 12 is rejected, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the grounds for the rejection.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document that was filed on February 11, 2004.

The Examiner objected to the specification because the specification does not contain section headings. Section headings are not required by the rules. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the specification to include section headings. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection to the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 to 6, 9, 11, and 13 to 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,402,760 B1 to Fedida.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of the claims. Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner, the claims have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. The claims now recite that the speed-change mechanism is able to perform the transmission of the movement between the slider and the slide with at least two drive ratios that are different in successive parts of a movement of the first part and the second part of the catheter relative to each other. Fedida does not teach or suggest such a mechanism. The speed-change mechanisms

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20A to 20D of Fedida do not have at least two drive ratios. In addition, the claims now recite that the slider is mobile with respect to the slide in a direction of a longitudinal axis. Fedida does not teach or suggest such a slider. In Fedida, the elements that cause mobile carriage 16 to move are not mobile with respect to the slide in the direction of a longitudinal axis, as required by the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 5, 7, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,611,813 to Lichtman.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of the claims. Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner, the claims have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. The claims now recite that the speed-change mechanism is able to perform the transmission of the movement between the slider and the slide with at least two drive ratios that are different in successive parts of a movement of the first part and the second part of the catheter relative to each other. Lichtman does not teach or suggest such a mechanism. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 6, 8 to 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,052,511 B2 to Weldon et al. ("Weldon").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of the claims. Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner, the claims have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. The claims now recite that the slide is tubular. Weldon does not teach or suggest a tubular slide. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to and the rejections of the claims.


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Respectfully submitted,

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